Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending November 14, 2015

Prepared by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports are received.

SUMMARY

During the week ending November 14, 2015, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **SPORADIC** geographic spread. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers increased and is above the baseline level for Maryland. The proportion of visits for ILI reported by Maryland Emergency Departments was unchanged from last week. There was an increase in the proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI. Clinical laboratories reported an increase in the proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza. One specimen tested positive at the DHMH lab. A total of 2 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. No respiratory outbreaks were reported. Nationally, influenza activity was low.

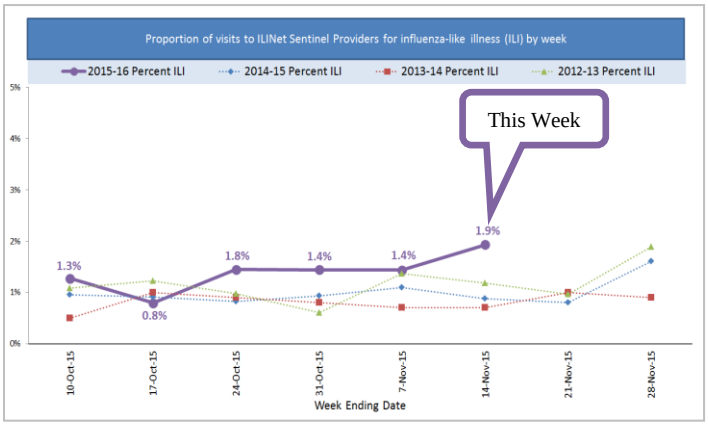
Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page

ILI Intensity Levels
✔ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
✔ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

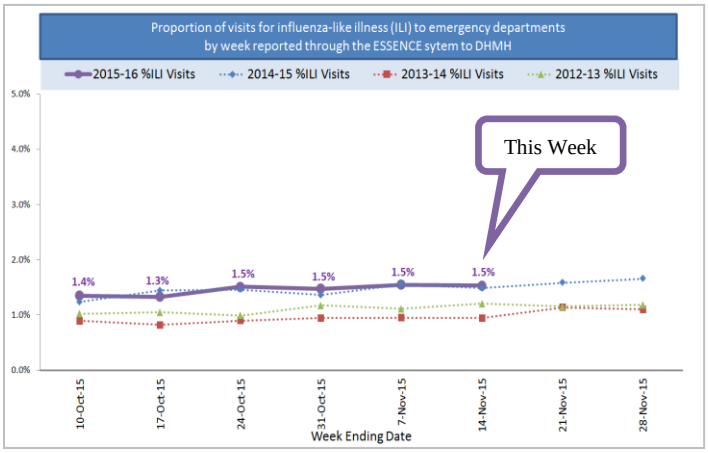
Twenty-five sentinel providers reported a total of 5,442 visits this week. Of those, 105 (1.9%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of **1.8%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	21 (20%)	25 (20%)	153 (25%)
Age 5-24	45 (43%)	50 (41%)	249 (41%)
Age 25-49	24 (23%)	27 (22%)	120 (20%)
Age 50-64	12 (11%)	13 (11%)	58 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	3 (3%)	7 (6%)	29 (5%)
Total	105 (100%)	122 (100%)	609 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 47,250 visits this week through the ESSENCE surveillance system. Of those, 723 (1.5%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	222 (31%)	234 (30%)	1196 (28%)
Age 5-24	240 (33%)	238 (31%)	1401 (33%)
Age 25-49	166 (23%)	188 (24%)	1070 (25%)
Age 50-64	57 (8%)	66 (9%)	402 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	38 (5%)	45 (6%)	225 (5%)
Unknown	--	--	--
Total	723 (100%)	771 (100%)	4294 (100%)

Neighboring states' influenza information:

Delaware	http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html
District of Columbia	http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza
Pennsylvania	http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161
Virginia	http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/flu/
West Virginia	http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx

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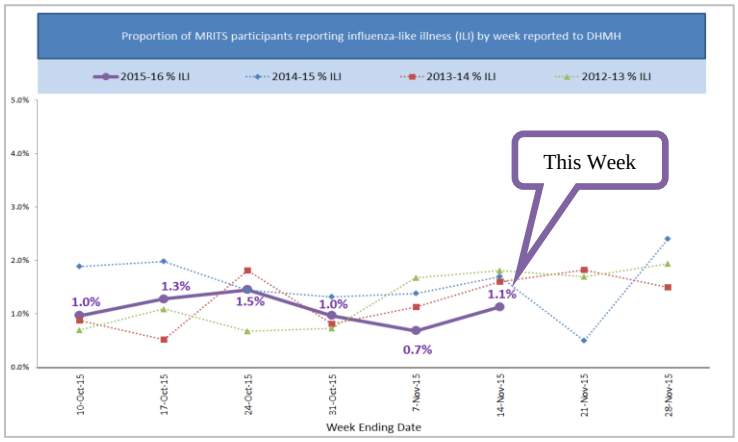
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS)

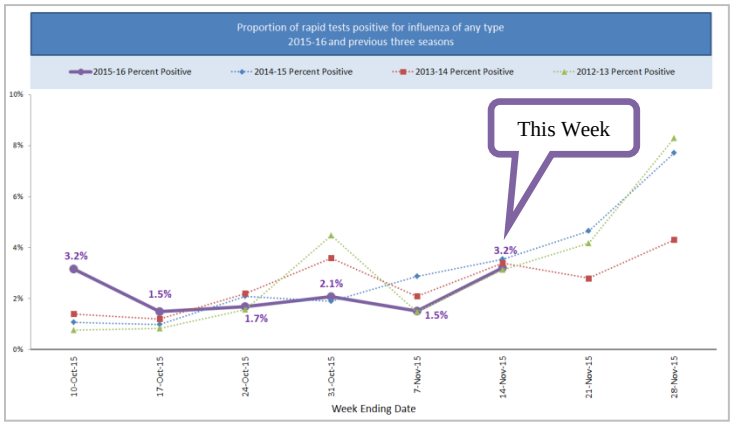
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 616 residents responded to the MRITS survey this week. Of those, 7 (1.1%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 28 days of regular daily activities.



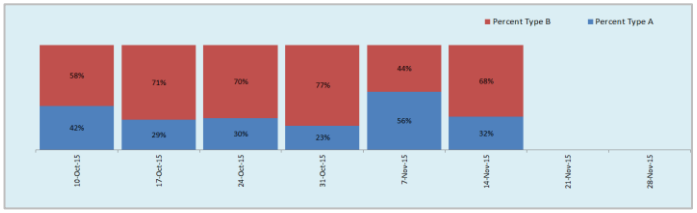
MRITS Respondents Reporting ILI By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (14%)	1 (25%)	2 (5%)
Age 5-24	1 (14%)	--	7 (18%)
Age 25-49	1 (14%)	--	9 (23%)
Age 50-64	2 (29%)	2 (50%)	12 (30%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (29%)	1 (25%)	10 (25%)
Total	7 (100%)	4 (100%)	40 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Forty-six clinical laboratories reported performing 593 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 19 (3.2%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 6 (31.6%) were influenza Type A and 13 (68.4%) were influenza Type B. The reliability of RIDTs depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

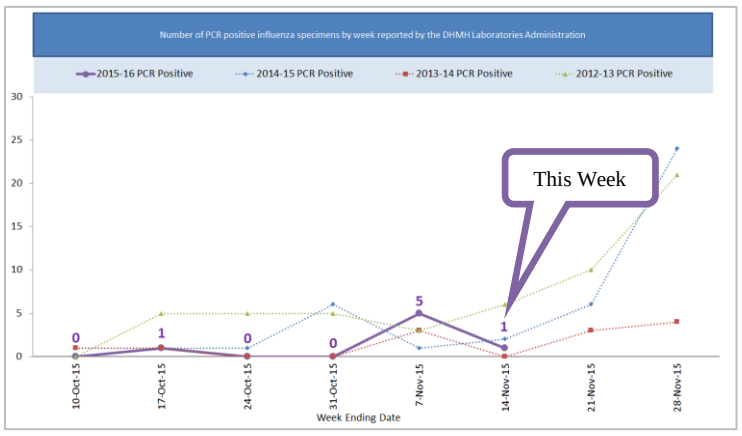


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	6 (32%)	5 (56%)	24 (34%)
Type B	13 (68%)	4 (44%)	46 (66%)
Total	19 (100%)	9 (100%)	70 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 71 PCR tests for influenza and 1 (1.4%) specimen tested positive for influenza. The positive specimen was Type A (H3). PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	2 (40%)	2 (29%)
Type A (H3)	1 (100%)	3 (60%)	5 (71%)
Type B (Victoria)	--	--	--
Type B (Yamagata)	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	5 (100%)	7 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2015-16 influenza season? Go to http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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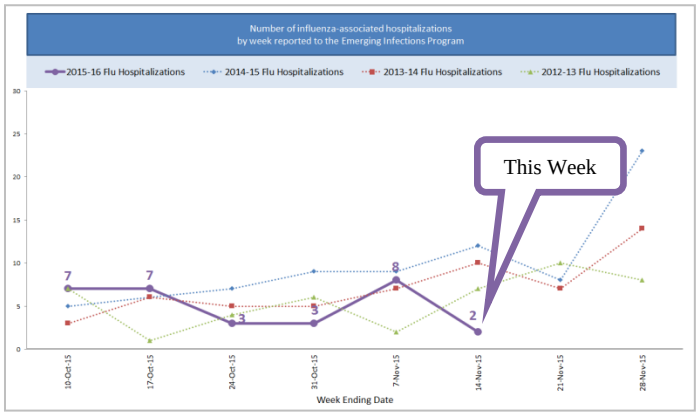
Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

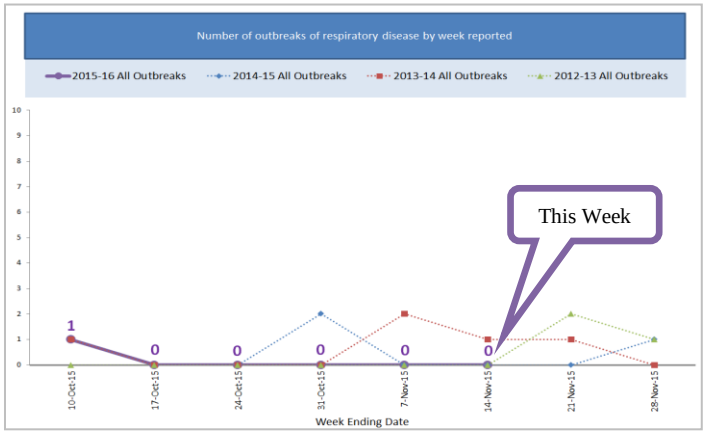
A total of 2 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	3 (38%)	5 (17%)
Age 5-17	--	1 (13%)	2 (7%)
Age 18-24	--	--	1 (3%)
Age 25-49	--	1 (13%)	4 (13%)
Age 50-64	--	1 (13%)	6 (20%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (100%)	2 (25%)	12 (40%)
Total	2 (100%)	8 (100%)	30 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were no respiratory outbreaks reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	--
Pneumonia	--	--	1 (100%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	--	--	1 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 45 (November 8-14, 2015), influenza activity increased slightly in the United States.

- **Viral Surveillance:** The most frequently identified influenza virus type reported by public health laboratories in week 45 was influenza A viruses, with influenza A (H3) viruses predominating. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories is low.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below their system-specific epidemic threshold in both the NCHS Mortality Surveillance System and the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.6%, which is below the national baseline of 2.1%. Two of 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. One state experienced moderate ILI activity; Puerto Rico and two states experienced low ILI activity; New York City and 47 states experienced minimal ILI activity; and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Guam was reported as widespread; Puerto Rico reported regional activity; four states reported local activity; 40 states reported sporadic activity; and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and six states reported no influenza activity.